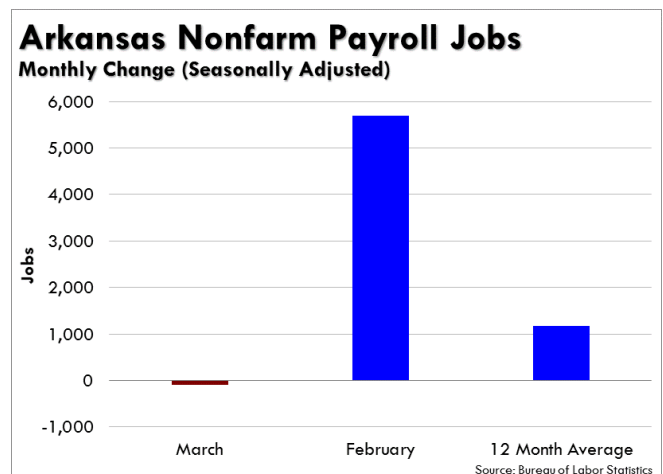
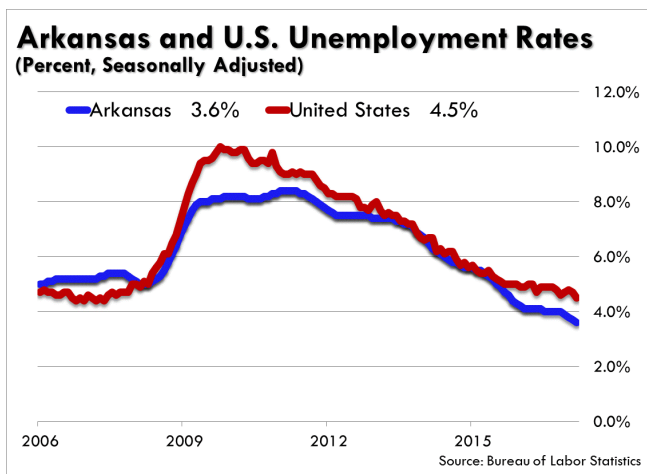


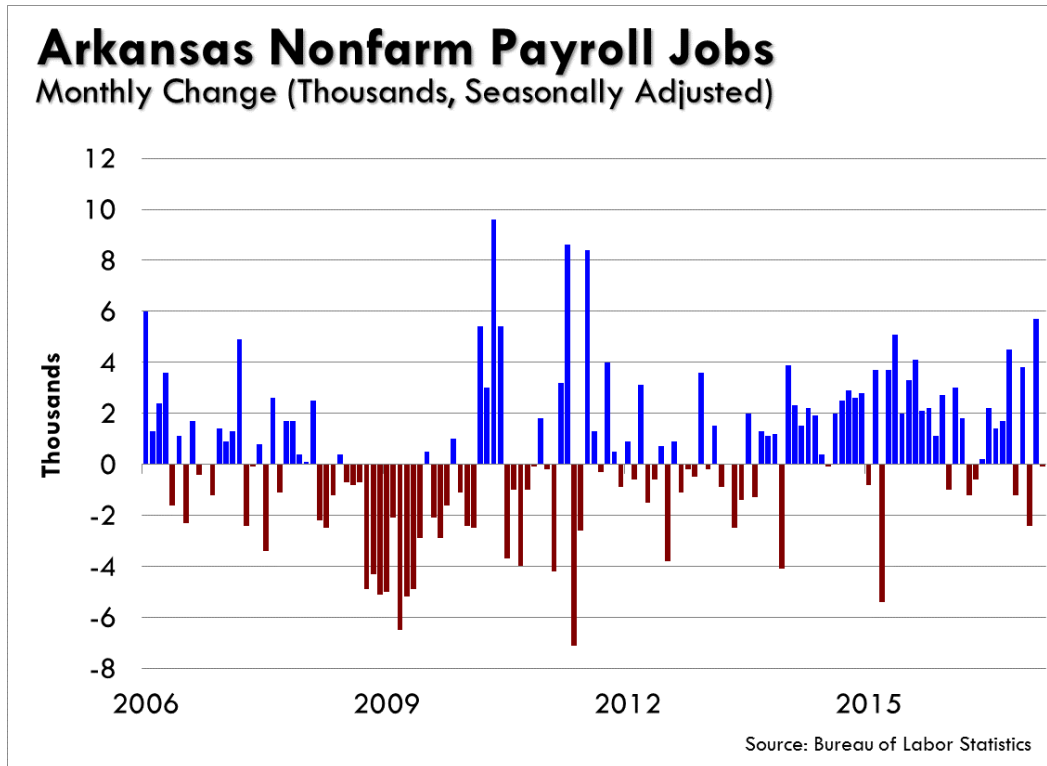


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Arkansas lost 100 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.6 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Arkansas added 14,000 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point from 4.1 percent.
- **In March, Arkansas's private sector lost 700 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 15,800 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Arkansans fell by 1,240 in March**, and over the past year 2,049 Arkansans found jobs.
- Arkansas's **labor force participation rate increased to 57.8 percent** from 57.7 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.5 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Arkansas Payroll Employment

Arkansas lost 100 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Arkansas added 5,700 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 14,000, or 1.14 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

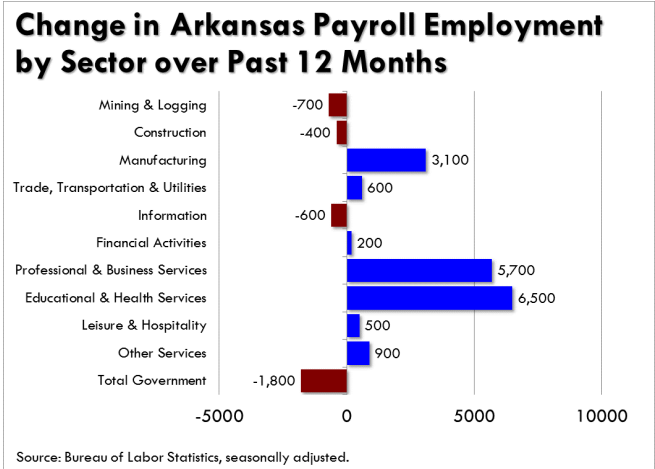
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Arkansas ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Arkansas's private-sector lost 700 jobs, or 0.07 percent. The private-sector in Arkansas added 5,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 15,800, or 1.56 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Arkansas ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+1,200) and Total Government (+600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-2,000) and Construction (-800).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+6,500) and Professional & Business Services (+5,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (-1,800) and Mining & Logging (-700).



Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

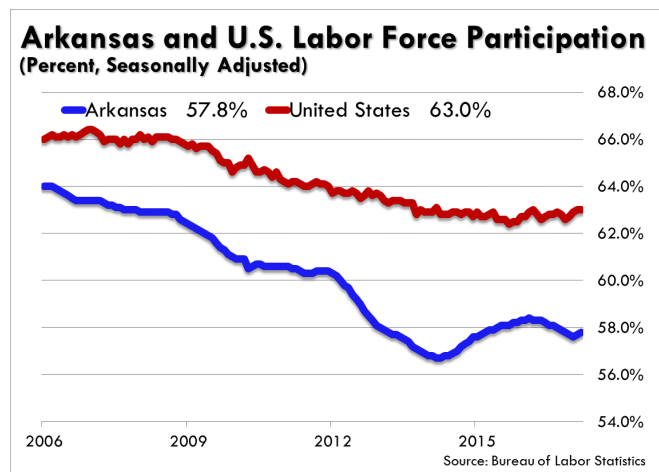
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Arkansas rose to 57.8 percent in March from 57.7 percent the prior month. At 57.8 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 63.3 percent in April 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.7 percent in April 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 55.7 percent in March from 55.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 have higher employment-to-



population ratios than Arkansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 60.0 percent in April 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.0 percent in January 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

